

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.114
Application No.: 09/347,409
Attorney Docket No. Q55026

REMARKS

Claims 4, 6, 10, and 12 are all the claims pending in the application. By this Amendment, Applicant cancels claims 2, 3, 5, 8, 9, 11, and 13-16. Claims 6 and 12 are rewritten in their independent form. Moreover, claims 4, 6, 10, and 12 are editorially amended to cure minor informalities. The amendments to claims 4, 6, 10, and 12 were made for reasons of precision of language and consistency, and do not narrow the literal scope of the claims and thus do not implicate an estoppel in the application of the doctrine of equivalents.

Statement of Substance of the Interview

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the courteous telephonic interviews on June 21 and June 24, 2005. The Statement of Substance of the Interview is as follows:

The Examiner contacted Applicant's representative on June 21, 2005 and indicated that claims 4, 6, 10, and 12 contain allowable subject matter. Furthermore, the Examiner indicated that the application would be allowed if claims 4, 6, 10, and 12 are amended to cure the minor informalities and if all the other claims pending in the application (claims 2, 3, 5, 8, 9, 11, and 13-16) are canceled. On June 24, 2005, Applicant's representative called the Examiner and agreed to place the application in condition for allowance by amending the claims, as detailed above.

The Examiner requested that Applicant file a Supplemental Amendment amending the claims as detailed, thereby placing the Application in condition for allowance. Accordingly, to place the Application in condition for allowance, the Application is amended as detailed above. If, for some reason, this amendment does not place the application in condition for allowance,

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Applicant respectfully requests this Amendment to be disregarded and kindly requests the Examiner to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

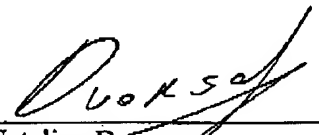
It is respectfully submitted that the instant STATEMENT OF SUBSTANCE OF INTERVIEW complies with the requirements of 37 C.F.R. §§1.2 and 1.133 and MPEP §713.04.

It is believed that no petition or fee is required. However, if the USPTO deems otherwise, Applicant hereby petitions for any extension of time which may be required to maintain the pendency of this case, and any required fee, except for the Issue Fee, for such extension is to be charged to Deposit Account No. 19-4880.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,


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WASHINGTON OFFICE

23373

CUSTOMER NUMBER

Date: June 24, 2005